

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 11 has been amended and claims 12-14 have been added as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1: (original): A communication-address issuing apparatus comprising:

communication-address issuing means for uniquely assigning one pair of communication addresses to each pair of particular users between whom mediation is made and issuing the pair of communication addresses together with associating information for the pair of communication addresses;

address-information storage means for storing the issued pair of communication addresses uniquely assigned to each pair of particular users, together with original addresses of the users and the associating information; and

communication-address report means for transmitting a unique pair of pieces of communication-address information for each pair of users to respective original addresses based on each of the pieces of storage information stored in the address-information storage means.

Claim 2 (original): A communication-address issuing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein, when one of the issued pair of communication addresses is modified, the

communication-address issuing means issues a new communication address only for the modified one, and the address-information storage means updates only the communication address to be modified to the new communication address and stores the new communication address.

Claim 3 (original): A communication-mediating apparatus comprising:

address-information storage means for storing an issued pair of communication addresses uniquely assigned to each pair of particular users, together with original addresses of the users and associating information for the pair of communication addresses;

reception means for receiving data sent to a communication address assigned for communication between particular users, together with the communication address and the transmission-source address;

search means for searching communication addresses stored in the address-information storage means for an address identical to the communication address received by the reception means;

verification means for verifying the received transmission-source address with the original address stored in the address storage means corresponding to the communication address when an address identical to the communication address is found as a result of the searching; and

transmission means for reading out another communication address which constitutes the pair with the communication address and which is stored in the address-information storage means to set

it as a transmission-source address and for transmitting the data to the original address corresponding to the communication address when the transmission-source address matches the original address as a result of the verification made by the verification means.

Claim 4 (original): A communication-mediating apparatus comprising:

address-information storage means for storing an issued pair of communication addresses uniquely assigned to each pair of particular users, together with original addresses of the users and associating information for the pair of communication addresses;

reception means for receiving data sent to a communication address assigned for communication between particular users, together with the communication address and the transmission-source address;

search means for searching communication addresses stored in the address-information storage means for an address identical to the communication address received by the reception means;

verification means for verifying the received transmission-source address with the original address stored in the address storage means corresponding to the communication address when an address identical to the communication address is found as a result of the searching;

transmission means for reading out another communication address which constitutes the pair with the communication address and which is stored in the address-information storage means to set it as a transmission-source address and for transmitting the data to the original address corresponding

to the communication address when the transmission-source address matches the original address as a result of the verification made by the verification means; and

transmission-and-reception-history storage means for storing a transmission and reception history of the reception means and the transmission means and making the transmission and reception history available for output.

Claim 5 (original): A communication-mediating method executed with a structure including:

address-information storage means for storing an issued pair of communication addresses uniquely assigned to each pair of particular users, together with original addresses of the users and associating information for the pair of communication addresses;

reception means for receiving data sent to a communication address assigned for communication between particular users, together with the communication address and the transmission-source address;

search means for searching the address-information storage means for the communication address received by the reception means;

verification means for verifying the received transmission-source address with the original address stored in the address storage means corresponding to the communication address; and

transmission means for transmitting the data to an original address of the other user,

the communication-mediating method comprising the steps of:

receiving, with the reception means, data sent to a communication address assigned for communication between particular users, together with the communication address and the transmission-source address;

searching, with the search means, communication addresses stored in the address-information storage means for an address identical to the received communication address;

verifying, with the verification means, the received transmission-source address with the original address stored in the address storage means corresponding to the communication address when an address identical to the communication address is found as a result of the searching; and

reading out another communication address which constitutes the pair with the communication address and which is stored in the account-information storage means to set it as a transmission-source address and transmitting, with the transmission means, the data to the original address corresponding to the communication address when the transmission-source address matches the original address as a result of the verification.

Claim 6 (original): A communication-mediating method executed with a structure including:

address-information storage means for storing an issued pair of communication addresses uniquely assigned to each pair of particular users, together with original addresses of the users and associating information for the pair of communication addresses;

reception means for receiving data sent to a communication address assigned for

communication between particular users, together with the communication address and the transmission-source address;

search means for searching the address-information storage means for the communication address received by the reception means;

verification means for verifying the received transmission-source address with the original address stored in the address storage means corresponding to the communication address;

transmission means for transmitting the data to an original address of the other user; and

transmission-and-reception-history storage means for storing a transmission and reception history of the reception means and the transmission means,

the communication-mediating method comprising the steps of:

receiving, with the reception means, data sent to a communication address assigned for communication between particular users, together with the communication address and the transmission-source address;

searching, with the search means, communication addresses stored in the address-information storage means for an address identical to the received communication address;

verifying, with the verification means, the received transmission-source address with the original address stored in the address storage means corresponding to the communication address when an address identical to the communication address is found as a result of the searching;

reading out another communication address which constitutes the pair with the communication address and which is stored in the account-information storage means to set it as a

transmission-source address and transmitting, with the transmission means, the data to the original address corresponding to the communication address when the transmission-source address matches the original address as a result of the verification; and

outputting the stored transmission and reception history, with the transmission-and-reception-history storage means, upon instruction to the transmission-and-reception-history storage means.

Claim 7 (original): A computer program for issuing a communication address, the program being read and executed by a computer to cause the computer to function as:

communication-address issuing means for uniquely assigning one pair of communication addresses to each pair of particular users between whom mediation is made, and issuing the pair of communication addresses together with associating information for the pair of communication addresses;

address-information storage means for storing the issued pair of communication addresses uniquely assigned to each pair of particular users, together with original addresses of the users and the associating information; and

communication-address report means for transmitting a unique pair of pieces of communication-address information for each pair of users to respective original addresses based on each of the pieces of storage information stored in the address-information storage means.

Claim 8 (original): A computer program according to Claim 7, wherein, when one of the issued pair of communication addresses is modified, the communication-address issuing means issues a new communication address only for the modified one, and the address-information storage means updates only the communication address to be modified to the new communication address and stores the new communication address.

Claim 9 (original): A computer program for mediating communication, the program being read and executed by a computer to cause the computer to function as:

address-information storage means for storing an issued pair of communication addresses uniquely assigned to each pair of particular users, together with original addresses of the users and associating information for the pair of communication addresses;

reception means for receiving data sent to a communication address assigned for communication between particular users, together with the communication address and the transmission-source address;

search means for searching communication addresses stored in the address-information storage means for an address identical to the communication address received by the reception means;

verification means for verifying the received transmission-source address with the original address stored in the address storage means corresponding to the communication address when an address identical to the communication address is found as a result of the searching; and

transmission means for reading out another communication address which constitutes the pair with the communication address and which is stored in the address-information storage means to set it as a transmission-source address and for transmitting the data to the original address corresponding to the communication address when the transmission-source address matches the original address as a result of the verification made by the verification means.

Claim 10 (original): A computer program for mediating communication, the program being read and executed by a computer to cause the computer to function as:

address-information storage means for storing an issued pair of communication addresses uniquely assigned to each pair of particular users, together with original addresses of the users and associating information for the pair of communication addresses;

reception means for receiving data sent to a communication address assigned for communication between particular users, together with the communication address and the transmission-source address;

search means for searching communication addresses stored in the address-information storage means for an address identical to the communication address received by the reception means;

verification means for verifying the received transmission-source address with the original address stored in the address storage means corresponding to the communication address when an address identical to the communication address is found as a result of the searching;

transmission means for reading out another communication address which constitutes the pair with the communication address and which is stored in the address-information storage means to set it as a transmission-source address and for transmitting the data to the original address corresponding to the communication address when the transmission-source address matches the original address as a result of the verification made by the verification means; and

transmission-and-reception-history storage means for storing a transmission and reception history of the reception means and the transmission means and making the transmission and reception history available for output.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A computer-readable recording medium having stored therein the computer program according to ~~one of Claims 7 to 10~~ Claim 7.

Claim 12 (new): A computer-readable recording medium having stored therein the computer program according to one of Claim 8.

Claim 13 (new): A computer-readable recording medium having stored therein the computer program according to one of Claim 9.

Claim 14 (new): A computer-readable recording medium having stored therein the computer program according to one of Claim 10.